GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1511
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2007
AMENDMENT IN MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT,1908
Patel Shri Kishanbhai Vestabhai;Singh Shri Sugrib

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to amend the Merchant Shipping Act, 1908;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the manner in which Indian Shipping Industry will be benefited by such amendments; and

(d) the time by which such amendments will be implemented?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) & (b): The Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Bill, 2004 further to amend the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 and Indian Ports Act, 1908 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 14th August, 2007 and the Bill was passed by the House.

The International Maritime Organisation (IMO) has introduced new Maritime Security Regulations − International Code for the Security of Ships and of Port facilities (ISPS Code) from 1st July, 2004. India also implemented ISPS Code from this date. Enforcement of ISPS Code requires legislative measures which have necessitated amendments in certain provisions of the Merchant Shipping Act and Indian Port Act to incorporate safety related provisions.

(c) & (d): The enhanced security measures will add to maritime safety and security in the Indian shipping industry so that the country's EXIM trade is not effected due to non- compliance of ISPS Code in its ports and ships engaged in International trade. The amendments will come into force after the Bill is considered and passed by the Rajya Sabha and assented to by the President.